



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



345952

OCT 29 2009

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:  
R-19J

Mr. Sadhu Johnston  
Chief Environmental Officer  
City of Chicago  
30 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Mr. Timothy J. Mitchell  
Superintendent & CEO  
Chicago Park District  
541 North Fairbanks  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Johnston and Mr. Mitchell:

Thank you for your letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson dated September 21, 2009, requesting the Agency's support for DuSable Park improvement as an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus project and a meeting to discuss your project proposal. Your letter also included a copy of the DuSable Peninsula Improvement Program dated May 8, 2009. I have been asked to respond to your letter on behalf of Administrator Jackson.

Since the late 1980's, EPA Region 5 has worked with the City of Chicago, property owners and developers to identify and remove thorium contamination from the Streeterville neighborhood. In May 2009, with the permission of Shelbourne and the Park District, Region 5 conducted a walk-over gamma radiation survey over accessible areas of DuSable Park. While we did not find any surface contamination above the thorium clean-up level, EPA remains concerned about the potential for exposure of construction workers and the public due to operations at DuSable Park. As explained in our June 2009 letter to the Park District, anytime subsurface work is conducted at DuSable Park, the Park District must provide prior notification to EPA and conduct radiation monitoring.

In regards to ARRA funding, EPA has distributed all available funding. However, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, which was a recipient of ARRA funding, may have available monies.

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EPA Region 5 looks forward to meeting with you to discuss how you plan to manage DuSable Park in order to identify additional potential thorium contamination and prevent the dispersal of such contamination. We also look forward to discussing pending sea wall replacement. We hope to have productive discussions with you after we have received and had the opportunity to review several key documents including:

1. All recently approved permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mentioned in your September 21<sup>st</sup> letter;
2. The maintenance plan for DuSable Park;
3. The revised DuSable Peninsula Improvement Program dated October 2009 or later;
4. A copy of the most recent design for DuSable Park, and
5. A detailed plan on how the Chicago Park District plans to manage DuSable Park that will prevent exposure to or dispersal of radioactive contamination.

Again, thank you for your letter. EPA looks forward to working with you and your staff to address the thorium contamination issues as you move forward with your plans to improve DuSable Park. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Verneta Simon of my staff at 312-886-3601. For legal issues, please contact Cathleen Martwick at 312-886-7166 or Mary Fulghum at 312-886-4683.

Sincerely,  
/s/ original signed by  
Walter Kovalick

Bharat Mathur  
Acting Regional Administrator

bcc: Charles Gebien, SE-5J  
Linda Nachowicz, SE-5  
Ronna Beckman, R-19J  
Mary Canavan, R-19J  
Verneta Simon , SE-5J  
Cathleen Martwick, C-14J  
Mary Fulghum, C-14J